

Solutions

Summer 2008

Route 34/72 Intersection In Jackson Faces Big Delays

Likely by the time this newsletter reaches your hands, work to widen and resurface Route 34/72 in Jackson will have reached the Route 34/72 intersection (Starlight). What that means for drivers is the potential for traffic delays.

"The intersection work will be done in a way to keep all existing lanes open," says Resident Engineer Darius Dowdy. "However, as we see with any work zone, drivers should expect slower traffic and delays, especially at this heavily traveled intersection."

Those delays could be up to 10 minutes but will largely depend upon traffic volumes. MoDOT started working in July to inform travelers of the difficulties that

could lie ahead during construction at the intersection.

"There's really no way to make the improvements at the intersection without working at the intersection," says Dowdy. "We hope with good weather, the work can be completed in about a month. We realize the work will be an inconvenience for drivers, but we ask for their patience and their caution as these important safety improvements are constructed."

In addition to widening and resurfacing as part of the Route 34/72 improvements in Jackson, traffic signals will also be added to the intersection.

Why'd They Do That?

Drivers may notice the Route 34/72 intersection looks a little different than the rest of the project. That's because construction at the intersection will include resurfacing the existing lanes with asphalt and widening the intersection with concrete, while the rest of the route was done entirely from concrete. Project Manager Eric Krapf says this concept was born from the goal of avoiding greater delays and burdening the traveling public even more.

"It will look a little different to drivers to have a portion of the lanes at the intersection constructed from concrete and a portion from asphalt," says Krapf. "To construct the intersection entirely from concrete would mean we would have to reduce this busy intersection to

Avoiding The Pain Of Delays

No one likes work zone delays and fewer like to have their routine travel routes detoured, but that may be just the answer for some of the traffic that normally uses the Route 34/72 intersection.

"Obviously, the fewer cars traveling through the intersection as the work occurs, the fewer delays. Drivers who want to avoid any possibility of delay should seek alternate routes and those who must travel through the intersection should plan accordingly. We expect to see higher traffic volumes between 6 and 8 a.m. and again between 3 and 6 p.m.," says Dowdy.

MoDOT says carpooling is another option that drivers can use to lessen the delays during construction. And, larger trucks may want to avoid the intersection as construction will cause tight turning movements.

More information on possible detour routes can be found on page 2 or at www.modot.org/southeast.



cont. p. 2

Intersection Construction

Continued

one lane of traffic, and our traffic modeling tells us drivers could have faced minimum 30-minute delays.”

Krapf explains that concrete takes longer to set before it can see any traffic. Building the intersection from an asphalt/concrete combination allows all lanes of traffic to remain open while the concrete widening occurs and then utilized while the existing lanes are resurfaced.

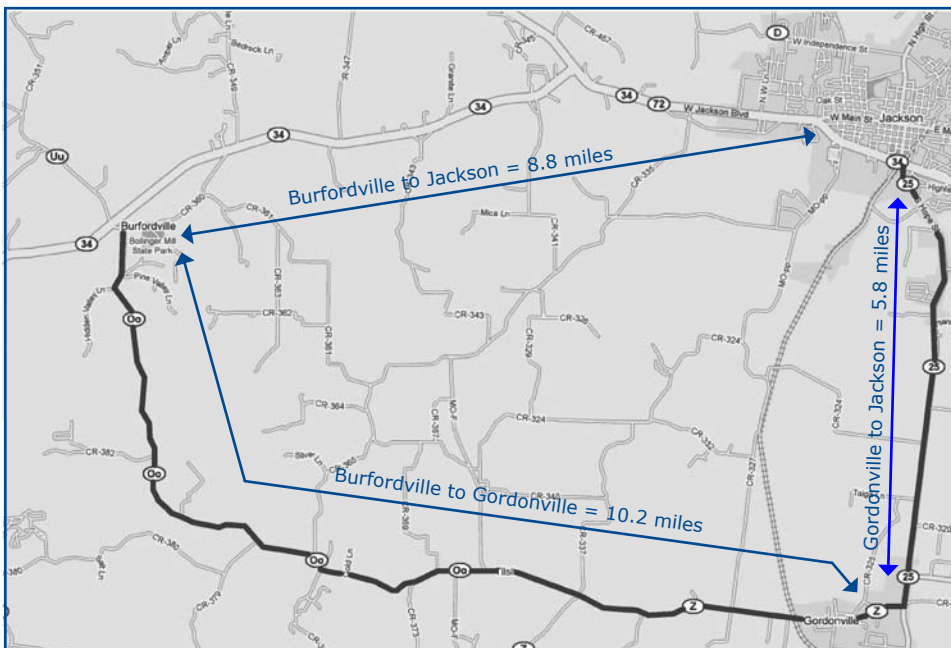
“The improvements will still function how we would like,” says Krapf. “But, drivers may notice some differences in appearance. We think that’s a minor concession compared to the consequences of 30-45 minute delays for both drivers and workers.”

While the delays will be lessened with this method, there may still be 10-minute delays and drivers who can are urged to take an alternate route or avoid peak travel times. Updates will be available during the work on the changeable message boards in the project area and on MoDOT’s website at www.modot.org/southeast.



Possible Detours

The maps show possible state route detours. While the mileage may be more than traveling thru the Route 34/72 intersection, drivers can avoid the work zone and there are fewer traffic signals on the detour route.



Help Wanted

Debbie Crader and the Jackson Beautification Committee jumped in to improve upon the improvements on Route 34/72. The group adopted the planters in the center median of the corridor to plant flowers and shrubs to add to the aesthetics. Crader asked local businesses to help with donations and she and other beautification



committee members have been taking care of the four median planters as part of the first phase ever since.

“David Wells, who taught

ag classes at the school, was a tremendous help with student volunteers,” says Crader. “But he is retired now, and even though he’s still working with me, we could really use some extra help.”

Crader is looking for people to help water and weed and she’s looking for any donations available to help with the cost of fertilizer and other supplies.

In addition, the second phase of the project has nine planters total throughout the project limits and any group, organization or individual interested could certainly adopt one or more of those planters.

“It was wonderful to see so many people initially take interest in making our community more beautiful,” says Crader. “My hope is that we get additional volunteers and this becomes a community effort and another source of pride for the citizens of Jackson.”

If you are interested in adopting, helping or donating, contact Debbie Crader at (573) 243-0267.

Route 72 Construction Update

Madison County

The first phase of the Fredericktown Bypass is well underway, with grading, paving and curb construction continuing.

The bypass will relocate Route 72 north of the current intersection with Route OO, and a roundabout is being constructed. So far, a section of roundabout with connections at Commercial Drive and the new bypass has been constructed.

Currently, traffic has been shifted to the north side of the existing lanes and temporarily



Weather permitting, the shoulder work should be completed this fall and paving work should begin.

Next year, work is expected to start on replacing bridges over Saline Creek in Madison County, Little Whitewater Creek in Bollinger County, and Whitewater Creek and Byrd Creek in Cape Girardeau County.

With multiple projects underway

on Route 72, it may be hard to keep track of when construction is expected in your area. For an

However, another big benefit in this location is that a roundabout allowed direct access to the intersection from the city's industrial park.

The project should be completed this September.

The widening and resurfacing from Fredericktown to Patton has already been completed, and there is no delay to traffic.

Bollinger & Cape Counties

From Route 51 to Route 34 in Cape

Girardeau County, the contractor is installing culverts and widening the existing dirt shoulders in preparation for paving.

All of the culverts are expected to be installed by the end of this summer. Then, work to widen the shoulders will begin.



passes through the center of the roundabout. During this shift, the southern portion of the roundabout will be constructed.

Roundabouts offer several benefits, including a 30-to-50 percent increase in traffic capacity, up to a 90 percent reduction in fatalities and savings due to the absence of needed traffic signal equipment.



up-to-the-minute view of road conditions and work zones, travelers can visit MoDOT's online Traveler Information Map.

The map gives MoDOT yet another way to inform the public by taking the information directly to them. Travelers can find the map by visiting MoDOT's website at www.modot.org and by clicking on the map at the center of the page, or by going straight to maps.modot.mo.gov/travelerinformation.

Questions On Route 72 Improvements?



Tim Richmond

For information on Route 72 improvements in Madison, Bollinger and Cape Girardeau Counties.

(573) 472-5290 or
1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636)
tim.richmond@modot.mo.gov



Eric Krapf

For information on Route 34/72 improvements in Jackson.

(573) 472-5261 or
1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636)
eric.krapf@modot.mo.gov

Solutions to:

- Route 34/72 Intersection Work
- Construction Update
- Help Wanted

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Cape Girardeau, MO
Permit #355

ModOT-Southeast District
P.O. Box 160
Sikeston, MO 63801
1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636)
www.modot.org/southeast

